

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A signal describing method for describing feature data characteristic of input data, comprising the steps of:

- dividing said input data into a plurality of segments;
- calculating features of a respective segment, wherein a color feature is calculated by denoting a color histogram;
- measuring similarities between segments based on their calculated features;
- grouping said segments into scenes based on their calculated features and measured similarities;
- generating feature data corresponding to said scenes; and
- transmitting said feature data with said input data,

wherein said feature data is described using descriptors each having its attributes defined as lower-level elements;

establishing a dissimilarity threshold by a user-defined setting or an automated setting; and

establishing a temporal threshold as a maximum interval between two segments on a time base,

wherein two segments that have a time gap that exceeds the temporal threshold are determined to be in different scenes.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

5. (Currently Amended) A data processor for generating feature data characteristic of input data, comprising:

dividing means for dividing said input data into a plurality of segments;

calculating means for calculating features of a respective segment, said

calculating means being operable to calculate a color feature denoting a color histogram;

measuring means for measuring similarities between segments based on their calculated features;

grouping means for grouping said segments into scenes based on their calculated features and measured similarities;

generating means for generating feature data corresponding to said scene; and

transmitting means for transmitting said feature data with said input data,

wherein said feature data is described using descriptors each having its attributes defined as lower-level elements;

means for establishing a dissimilarity threshold by a user-defined setting or an automated setting; and

means for establishing a temporal threshold as a maximum interval between two segments on a time base,

wherein two segments that have a time gap that exceeds the temporal threshold are determined to be in different scenes.

6. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

8. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

9. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the feature data is sent along with the input data to an external apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A data processor for utilizing feature data characteristic of input data, comprising:

dividing means for dividing said input data into a plurality of segments;

calculating means for calculating features of a respective segment, said

calculating means being operable to calculate a color feature denoting a color histogram;

measuring means for measuring similarities between segments based on their calculated features;

grouping means for grouping said segments into scenes based on their calculated features and measured similarities;

generating means for generating feature data corresponding to said scene;

transmitting means for transmitting said feature data with said input data; and

means for restoring a feature of the input data using feature data described with descriptors each having its attributes defined as lower-level elements;

means for establishing a dissimilarity threshold by a user-defined setting or an automated setting; and

means for establishing a temporal threshold as a maximum interval between two segments on a time base,

wherein two segments that have a time gap that exceeds the temporal threshold are determined to be in different scenes.

11. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

12. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

13. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

14. (Canceled)

15.(Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the feature data is received along with the input data from an external apparatus.